

Useful Links:

- [U.S. Embassy-Riyadh](#)
- [U.S. Embassy-Facebook](#)
- [EducationUSA](#)
- [CollegeBoard](#)
- [ETS](#)
- [Petersons](#)

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Connections Saudi Arabia

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Feature: Medical Education in the U.S.

Medical education in the United States is one of the most competitive and high quality fields of study in the country. Medical school usually lasts four years and consists of a classroom experience with observation and clinical work.

Admission requirements include an undergraduate degree, preferably from a U.S.-accredited institution. There are over 150 medical schools in the United States, most of which award Doctoral degrees in medicine. For more informa-

tion on the various types of medical education and professional fields of study within the medical field, visit: <http://www.educationusa.info/pages/students/research-pro.php>

Student Spotlight: Mohammed Mansi



Mohammed Mansi is currently finishing his Medical internship at King Fahad National Guard Hospital in Riyadh. Mohammed decided to enter the field of Neurosurgery after attending Medical School at King Saud bin Abdulaziz University for Health Sciences in Riyadh, where he graduated in 2010. He received his Bachelors of Science in Medical Technology from King Abdulaziz University in his hometown of Jeddah in 2006.

In January 2011, however, Mohammed decided to take his medical education to the United States. During his four week observership at St. Joseph's Hospital and Regions Hospital in St. Paul, Minnesota, Mohammed got a hands-on look into medical practice in the United States and was able to gain more experience in

his desired field of practice, neurosurgery.

"U.S. doctors are leaders in the medical field," Mohammed said, "They use the latest advancements and state-of-the-art technology."

During the Observership, Mohammed attended surgeries, did rounds with doctors in the mornings, worked on patient imaging, and attended lectures on neurosurgery with some of the top doctors in the field. "They have the best doctors over there, they are pioneers in neurosurgery," Mohammed said, "I was able to learn some of the latest techniques and found that the human mind is a marvelous structure waiting to be discovered."

Because of frequent travels to the United States when he was younger, Mohammed says he was no stranger to large U.S. cities.

"It's always a pleasant experience to travel to the states, I made a lot of good friends there," Mohammed said, "During childhood

travel I got attached to certain things about America, it will always have a special place in my heart."

After finishing his internship at KFNGH, Mohammed hopes to go into neurosurgery and is looking into options in the United States and Canada. Mohammed would like to thank his country and college, his wife and family, Education USA, and the U.S. Government for assisting him in his career and life goals. Mohammed says he also owes special thanks to the nurses at St. Joseph's and Regions Hospitals and Doctors Tariq Janjua, Eric Nussbaum, and Alejandro Mendez.

To other students wishing to study in the United States, Mohammed says, "Continue fighting for your dreams, because you can get to them through education and hard work."

As for other aspiring doctors, Mohammed encourages them to "Go see the world. If you want to go for something special, the States are the place."

Focus on ... Residencies in the U.S.

U.S. graduate training for physicians generally involves completing a prescribed period of clinical training in a chosen medical specialty, usually called a residency. The Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) accredits such programs. While entry to residencies is quite competitive, international physicians generally have high chances of pursuing U.S. medical study at this level. Below are six key steps to attaining a medical residency in the U.S.

1) Pass the USMLE

- Pass the hands-on USMLE Step 2 Clinical Skills examination (Step 2 CS) that is administered by ECFMG in several U.S. locations (currently including Philadelphia, Atlanta, Los Angeles, Chicago, and Houston) throughout the year. The USMLE Step 1 must be taken before Step 2 CS. The Secretary General of the Saudi Commission for Health Specialties recently signed an agreement to offer Step 1 in the Kingdom. All three steps must be passed within a seven-year period for the candidate to qualify for ECFMG certification. No additional English proficiency examination is required for those taking Step 2 CS. (In the past, TOEFL was required.)

2) Graduate from Medical School

- Graduate from a medical school listed in the International Medical Education Directory of the Foundation for Advocacy of International Medical Education and Research (available online at <http://imed.ecfmg.org>)

- Medical Programs that are recognized in Saudi Arabia (as of July 12, 2011):

• Batterjee Medical College for Sciences & Technology	Jeddah
• Global Medical College	Riyadh
• Ibn Sina National College	Jeddah
• Jizan University	Jizan
• King Abdulaziz University	Jeddah
• King Fahad Medical Center	Riyadh
• King Faisal University	Al Khobar
• King Faisal University	Al Ahsa
• King Khalid University	Abha
• King Saud University	Riyadh
• King Saud University for Health Sciences	Riyadh
• Qassim University	Burayda
• Taibah University	Al Munawarah
• Umm Al Qura University	Mecca
• University of Dammam	Dammam



Association of American Medical Colleges



Students can apply through the AAMC's Electronic Residency Application Service (ERAS) at <https://www.aamc.org/services/69694/eras/>. ERAS is a service that transmits applications, letters of recommendation, Medical Student Performance Evaluations, medical school transcripts, USMLE transcripts, COMLEX transcripts, and other supporting credentials from applicants and their designated dean's office to program directors.

Focus on ... Residencies in the U.S.

3) ECFMG Certification

- To obtain residency positions or other training involving patient contact, graduates of medical schools outside the United States must pass a certification program administered by the Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates (ECFMG). This certification program is designed to assure both the U.S. public and directors of residency programs that applicants from foreign medical schools have qualifications comparable to U.S. medical school graduates.
- International medical graduates (IMGs) applying for residencies must have ECFMG certification before beginning a residency, but they may initiate correspondence with a program before they receive certification. Information on residency programs can be found on-line in the American Medical Association's (AMA) Fellowship and Residency Electronic Interactive Database (FREIDA), located at <http://www.ama-assn.org/ama/pub/category/2997.html>.
- Document the completion of all requirements for the receipt of the final medical diploma. Provide ECFMG with copies of the medical diploma and final medical school transcript. ECFMG will then independently verify these credentials with the medical school.

4) Research Schools

- At the same time that IMGs are completing the ECFMG certification process, they can begin investigating residency options and applying to programs. IMGs must be ECFMG-certified before actually starting a residency. Consult the Graduate Medical Education Directory, published by the "FREIDA Online" database, on the American Medical Association (AMA) Web site at <http://www.ama-assn.org> to choose appropriate programs. Correspond with and, if possible, visit programs of interest.

5) Application Process

- Apply directly to programs of interest, using their application forms or the Electronic Residency Application Service (ERAS). ECFMG serves as the "designated dean's office" for IMGs participating in ERAS—IMGs must have obtained an identification number exam through ECFMG (by applying for an exam) to apply through ERAS. Also apply to be matched with programs of interest through the National Resident Matching Program (<http://www.nrmp.org>) or specialty matching programs (if programs participate).

6) Visa

- Finally, there is the visa application. IMGs must be ECFMG-certified and accepted to a residency before they can receive a visa for residency study. Contact a designated sponsor (ECFMG for a J-1 visa) to obtain certification to apply for a visa. A curriculum vita, letter from the home country's Ministry of Health, and other materials will be required. Once certification to apply is received, contact a U.S. Embassy or Consulate to apply for the visa. Be prepared to document study plans, financial resources sufficient for your planned program, and intent to return home. Plan to apply for your Visa at least two to three months in advance of your program's start date.

University Spotlight - University of the Sciences



The University of the Sciences in Philadelphia (USP) is a private health sciences university with an urban campus nestled in a downtown Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. It was founded in 1821 as America's first pharmacy college. It now boasts 25 undergraduate and 21 graduate programs.

The programs at USP cover a wide range of specializations within the field of health sciences. Students have the opportunity to

enter new emerging fields in health science and receive hands-on experience at the entry level through research.

USP alumni have contributed to progress in every dimension of the health sciences, from pioneering the use of x-rays in the 19th century to unlocking the genetic code in the 20th and discovering countless new medications.

Undergraduate: 2,400
Postgraduate: 340

Motto: "Where healthcare and science converge"

Location: Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA

Programs Available: Biochemistry, Health Science, Pharmaceutical Chemistry, Pre-Medicine, Pre-Health Professional

More Information:

<http://www.usciences.edu/>



To contact the office for International Student Advising and Multicultural Affairs, call Associate Dean/Director of Multicultural Affairs Walter Perry EdD at 215-596-8890 or e-mail him at w.perry@usp.edu



USP Pharmaceutical students celebrate American Pharmacists Month. The Pharmaceutical program at USP is one of the oldest and most successful in the United States.



USP graduates enter a variety of fields after graduation, including: Medicine, Healthcare business and Health Policy.

USP UNIVERSITY OF THE SCIENCES IN PHILADELPHIA

[Video: Get a student's look inside University of the Sciences in Philadelphia!](#)

Being a Medical Mentor

Dr. Ibrahim Bani- Jazan University

Dr. Ibrahim Bani has over 30 years of experience in the medical field and currently serves as the Associate Dean for Graduate Studies and Research at the Faculty of Medicine at Jazan University. Dr. Bani holds an M.B.B.S. from Khartoum Medical College (1977), a Diploma in Tropical Medicine and Hygiene from London's Royal College of Physicians (1984), and an International Fellowship from the Johns Hopkins School of Public Health (1988-1989). Dr. Bani has worked as a medical officer in Darfur, Sudan and as a consultant at the Diabetic Center at King Abdul Aziz University Hospital in Riyadh.

At Jazan University, Dr. Bani is an administrator and coordinator for international graduate and collaboration programs. He also oversees college professional development programs, as well as community service and research activities. Some of his international collaboration efforts include connections with University of Illinois – Chicago, where he taught in the Family Medicine Department in 2009, and George Washington University, where he taught in the International Health Department in 2000. Since 2008, he has sent an average of 10 students per year to UIC and 4 students to GWU. Dr. Bani stresses to his students the need to take full advantage of the American medical education system.

"It is a unique opportunity, and the student should make the most of it," Dr. Bani said. "Networking is a key element in achievements during their studies in the U.S. The student must be oriented in the U.S. system, including cultural, medical and educational differences, before travelling to the U.S."

Dr. Bani says Saudi students who travel to the United States for medical education are able to tap into expertise and resources that are not available domestically, gain knowledge of global health care and broaden their horizon in medical education.

"They learn another new level of professionalism and work ethics," Dr. Bani said. "They will recognize and open doors of opportunities by getting recommendations from reputable medical and academic institutions."

In addition to taking the MCAT, Dr. Bani says prospective students must keep in mind that medical institutions in the United States place more weight on the interviews when considering students for admission.

Overall, Dr. Bani says, students must be "open to new ways of doing things." This openness, combined with a commitment to cross-cultural education, has helped his international students succeed.

Connecting with U.S. Universities in the Gulf

Meeting with U.S. university admission officers and representatives can be a great way to learn more about different types of institutions. It is a great opportunity to expand your college search and meet with representatives face-to-face, learn more about their schools and ask questions. Saudi universities also have an opportunity to network and liaise with their counterparts and explore the possibility of linkages. There are some great opportunities to meet with representatives over the next few months. Check out the following events occurring in the Gulf:

NAFSA: National Association International Education

From May 27th to June 1st, 2012, NAFSA will host thousands of educators, including campus leaders, policy experts, industry partners, experienced practitioners and international colleagues for its [2012 Annual Conference & Expo](http://www.nafsa.org/2012-Annual-Conference-Expo) in Houston, Texas, USA. The event will include over 250 workshops, sessions and seminars in addition to face-to-face connections networking opportunities within the world-wide education field. For more information, visit www.nafsa.org.



Useful Links**Great College Search Engines:**

- [Petersons](#)
- [Collegeboard](#)

Essential Saudi Websites:

- [SACM.org](#)
- [MOHE.gov.sa](#)

Accreditation:

- [CHEA](#)
- [U.S. Department of Education](#)

EDU E-LIST

Do you want to know more about educational opportunities in the U.S.? If so, sign up for the EDU E-LIST! If you are interested, e-mail EduRiyadh@state.gov, EduDhahran@state.gov or EduJeddah@state.gov

Upcoming Test Dates:**2011**

Oct. 1 SAT I & II
*register by Sept. 9

Nov. 5 SAT I & II
*register by Oct. 7

Dec. 3 SAT I & II
*register by Nov. 8

2012

Jan. 28 SAT I & II
*register by Dec. 30, 2011

March 10 SAT I
*register by Feb. 20

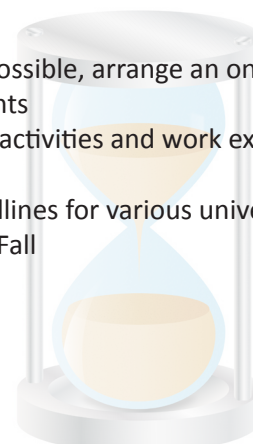
Application Countdown

Junior Year/11th Grade:**Summer 2011**

- Start planning to visit colleges that interest you; if possible, arrange an on-campus interview or tour with a group of prospective students
- Create a résumé which lists your accomplishments, activities and work experiences
- Create a calendar that includes the application deadlines for various universities
- Register for the SAT and SAT II (Subject tests) in the Fall

Senior Year/12th Grade:**Summer 2011**

- Make travel plans; book early for the best prices.
- Shop for items you need for college.
- Make sure to sign up for first-year orientation.
- Plan your first-semester courses. Choose subjects that interest you and may become your college major.



Did You Know?

Extramural Electives/Clerkships can be an excellent way to gain experience in the U.S. medical field before you finish your degree.

Are you in your 3rd or 4th year of medical school and interested in getting some experience in the United States? If so, you should know that many U.S. medical schools provide extramural electives/clerkships to students. Priority will often go to U.S. students, but many schools welcome international medical students. These are highly mobile and flexible programs that often focus on a specific field of medicine. They do not require ECFMG certification; however some may require Step 1 of the USLME. The Association of American colleges has an online extramural electives compendium that allows you to search electives by institution, location and specific medical college. Each program lists the contact information, school website, if international students are accepted, deadlines and fees if applicable. To search this database, go to <http://services.aamc.org/eec/students/>. A clerkships can be a wonderful chance for international medical students to get a taste of the U.S. medical system and assist with looking at residency opportunities after graduation.

USMLE Preparation- Riyadh

For students who are unable to take USMLE preparatory classes in the United States or Canada, [Kaplan Test Preparatory Services](#) now offers live instruction at King Saud University, College of Medicine in Riyadh. Live lectures will be held from July 2 - August 20, 2011 and students will have access to online materials, lectures, and test prep services for six months. The faculty is composed of U.S. medical school faculty and practitioners who are acclaimed lecturers in their respective fields. For more information, visit: <http://www.kaptest.com/KSA/Study-in-SA.html>.

KAPLAN
MEDICAL

**RIYADH** - U.S. Embassy-Riyadh

Tel: +966-1-488-3800 Ext. 4505 or Ext. 4207

E-mail: EduRiyadh@state.gov<http://riyadh.usembassy.gov/education-and-culture.html>**JEDDAH** - U.S. Consulate General

Tel: +966-2-667-0080 Ext. 4151

E-mail: EduJeddah@state.gov<http://jeddah.usconsulate.gov/jeddah/advising.html>**DHAHRAN** - U.S. Consulate General

Tel: +966-3-330-3200 Ext. 3044

E-mail: EduDhahran@state.gov[http://dhahran.usconsulate.gov/dhahran resources.html](http://dhahran.usconsulate.gov/dhahran/resources.html)

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Visit the Education USA Website at:<http://EducationUSA.state.gov><http://www.facebook.com/USEmbassySaudiArabia>

Visa Question

Question: What type of visa should my Mahram get to accompany me to the U.S.?

For female students who must have a Mahram to be eligible for King Abdulah Scholarship Program, or other scholarship programs there are three primary visa options.

F2 Visa (student dependent): The F2 visa is issued to dependents of students, and are limited to spouses and children. As long as the female student maintains full-time status, her dependents are eligible to live with her in the United States on an F2 visa.

F1 Visa (student): The female student's spouse or other family member

may enroll in the same institution or a nearby school and become eligible for their own F1 visa and accompany their female relative during her study in the United States. This Mahram must maintain full-time student status and be able to show credible academic progress, as do all F1 students.

B1/B2 Visa (business/tourism):

Mahrams not enrolled in a full time program who are not dependents (e.g. father, brother, other close relative) must enter the United States on a B1/B2 business/tourism visa. A business/tourist visa enables the Mahram to travel to the port of entry, where the U.S. Customs and Border Control (CBP) officer will determine the time the visa holder is authorized

to be in the U.S. This is usually for a period of up to six months, at which time he must leave or file an extension request with the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service (USCIS) on form I-539. The B1/B2 tourist visa does not enable someone to live in the United States for the length of the visa's validity.

The laws of the United States do not require a Mahram for female students, and a female who loses her Mahram will not lose her visa for this reason alone. Decide which visa path is right for you and your family, and feel free to direct any questions to RiyadhNIV@state.gov.